Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02 IO-13 DHA-02 ORM-02 SCA-01 SCS-03 /079 W

R 181053Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2705
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERSUALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
DIA WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC

CONFIDENTIAL DAMASCUS 2454

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, SY, IS SUBJECT: SARG AGREES PERMIT SYRIANS FROM OCCUPIED GOLAN TO STUDY AT DAMASCUS UNIVERSITY

REF: DAMASCUS 093

1. REF REPORTED SARG CONSIDERING PROPOSAL TO ACCEPT 32
STUDENTS LIVING ON OCCUPIED GOLAN TO STUDY AT DAMASCUS
UNIVERSITY. ICRC REP RECENTLY INFORMED US THAT PRES. ASAD
FINALLY APPROVED PROPOSAL FOR ALL 32 STUDENTS AND ICRC NOW
PREPARING TO RECEIVE FIRST STUDENTS. SOURCE REVIEWED OFTENFRUSTRATING BUREAUCRATIC OBSTACLE COURSE HE HAD TO SURMOUNT
IN DAMASCUS TO OBTAIN PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL OF PROGRAM. HE
SAID WHEN ISRAELIS UNEXPECTEDLY AGREED TO LIST OF 32 NAMES
LAST FALL, SYRIANS ESTABLISHED TWO COMMITTEES- COMPOSED OF
UNIVERSITY AND MILITARY OFFICIALS -- TO RECOMMEND RESPONSE
AND TRANSMIT RECOMMENDATIONS TO ASAD FOR FINAL REVIEW.
AFTER MUCH DELAY, ASAD FINALLY RECIEVED COMMITTEES'
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POSITIVE RECOMMENDATIONS AND APPROVED PROPOSAL. ICRC RECEIVED ON MARCH 20 MFA NOTE DATED FIRST WEEK IN MARCH INFORMING IT OF SARG AGREEMENT.

2. SOURCE SAID HE HOPED TO CONVINCE SOME OF THE 32 STUDENTS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY IN DAMASCUS AND RETURN TO THEIR HOMES DURING SUMMER.

UNFORTUNATELY, UNIVERSITY BEGAN ITS SESSION DEC. 2, AND SOURCE NOT CERTAIN ANY OF THE STUDENTS WOULD OPT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITY THEY OFFERED.

3. SOURCE CONTINUED THAT THIS DECISION MARKED INCREASED INTEREST ON PART OF SARG IN STATUS OF OCCUPIED GOLAN. WITHOUT GOING INTO SPECIFICS, HE NOTED THAT HE HAD PICKED UP OTHER TANGIBLE INDICATIONS THAT SARG BEGINNING TO FOCUS ITS ATTENTION ON SYRIAN POPULATION LIVING UNDER ISRAELI OCCUPATION. PELLETREAU

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PFOR, SEDU, IS, SY

To: STATE Type: TE

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